

Focus of Pocono Plateau Camp + Retreat Center

Autumn 2010



A Sacred Place to Meet God

By Rev. Ron Schane, Director

As a volunteer at camp, I was excited each summer to share my faith journey with the campers. I watched them grow in their faith as God's Spirit worked in their lives. But I was also amazed how God touched my life each year as well. The impact on my life came from the campers' faith, the Christian community and the beautiful surroundings. Pocono Plateau was a place where I experienced God's presence!

Each summer, I would eagerly await my return to camp. My anticipation grew as I drove up the winding road of the mountain, leaving behind the troubles and distractions of the world. As I turn onto the camp lane under the familiar canopy of trees, I felt that I was entering God's sanctuary. I had met God here before, and I want to meet God here again. The place itself rejuvenated my spirit.

The author of Psalm 84 hungers for a spiritual place too – the temple in Jerusalem. He writes, "My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; ... my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God." (NIV). Some circumstance is keeping him from the Temple, but he would rather spend one day there "than a thousand elsewhere."

Spending time in places that have special meaning to us can move us closer to God, not because those places have magical qualities but because they focus our spiritual longings. Being in that special place matters because we first yearn to be there. Maps can't lead us to God, but thirsty souls know the way.

I praise God for Pocono Plateau - a sacred space set apart for life-changing experiences in Jesus Christ!

"Be still
and know
that I AM
God." Psalm 46:10



Our Address has changed now that we have been given a street number. Make sure you update your files to include this new address:

Pocono Plateau Camp + Retreat Center
304 Pocono Plateau Road
Cresco, PA 18326

Give the Gift of Summer Camp or a Retreat

Children are our future! The experiences fostered at Pocono Plateau are often life-changing stepping stones on the road to spiritual maturity. Children and youth come to camp excited to make new friends, ready to take on new challenges and discover gifts they didn't know they had. Summer camp and retreats provide opportunities for kids to grow in their faith within a Christian community.

You can change a child's life today! Gift certificates are available for summer camp, and Pocono Plateau sponsored-retreats. Give the gift of a camp experience to your son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, nephew, niece, friend or neighbor. It's an investment in their spiritual growth.

**For more information, please contact the camp office:
570-676-3665.**

Make secure online donations through
PayPal at our website:
www.poconoplateau.org
One Time Donations
or
Recurring Monthly Donations

Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center

304 Pocono Plateau Road, Cresco, PA 18326

camp@poconoplateau.org / www.poconoplateau.org 570.676.3665 phone / 570.676.9388 fax

My Life as a Director on the Hill - Part I

By Tammy Newberry

This summer we had two new Directors on the Hill for Junior High Adventure Camp. Tammy Newberry and Kara Stuebing covered for Matt Hoffert while he was away on his honeymoon. This issue we are graced to have Tammy's impressions of this valuable volunteer ministry here at the Plateau. The second portion of this article—from Kara—will appear in the next newsletter.

I have to honestly say this past year was my favorite year of camp. I have counseled and served on staff at four different camps, but Pocono Plateau has become my home. I was blessed with a wonderful co-director that guided me along with her awesome organization. The support provided to us by the staff and counselors was phenomenal.

As I shared with the campers during Thursday chapel time, this past year I have found myself questioning God numerous times. Asking why? Why would he allow a star athlete to be paralyzed in a car accident? Why would he allow a mission group to be seriously injured during a bombing in a foreign country? Why? When we ask why something had to happen, we have to remember that God gives mankind the ability to make choices and many times mankind makes bad choices. These choices often cause hurt. But if we have a relationship with God and we continue to trust in him even when we do not understand why he would allow tragedy to happen, we will see how God can turn the bad decision or evil into good. Along with the bad choices that are made by mankind, there are thousands more good choices. For that we should give praise!

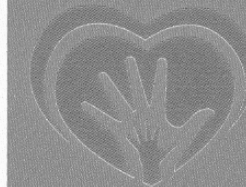
I thank God every day for the opportunity that I had to direct camp this summer. There are many times that we call each other and talk about how we wish we were back at camp. The friendships made and the memories created (walk-in parties) give us the strength to continue to serve our wonderful Savior.

The Vista



Governed by God, Maintained by Volunteers

Eagle Scout Projects
Mission/Youth Group Projects
Woodcutters Day
Spring Cleanup
Senior Projects



VOLUNTEER at Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center

Honor God by volunteering your time and talents to camp.

Cut/split firewood, trail cleanup, paint, building projects, landscaping, individual & group projects.

- * Consider having your group do a camp service project.
- * Make a commitment to help today!

ADOPT A TRAIL

You, your family, or your youth group can adopt one of our beautiful trails. Commit to coming in the spring or fall to help maintain our hiking trails.

RR2 Box 2747, Cresco, PA
570-676-3665
www.poconoplateau.org

**Opportunities to serve God
are endless. Volunteer today!**

Upcoming Retreats

2010 Junior and Senior High Retreat

Wednesday December 29, 7pm - Friday, Dec. 31, 2 pm

Celebrate the season at **WINTER BLAST 2010!** Connect with God, renew your faith, and experience outdoor adventures including late night gaga! Join us for a birthday celebration and the real meaning of Christmas!

Don't miss out on this awesome holiday retreat!

Grades 7 - 12

The Program Directors are Liz and Jared Stoltzfus.

Cost: \$95

2011 Children's Winter Jamboree

Friday January 21, 7pm - Sunday January 23, 2 pm

Theme: **Say What?** A look at what we say, how we say it, and how it affects others. Activities include: sledding, broomball, ga-ga, skating, campfire w/ s'mores, and crafts. Several summer staff will be returning as counselors and support staff for this Jamboree! Grades 4-6.

The Program Director is Glendon Carper

Cost: \$95



Women's Scrapbooking Weekend

Friday March 11, 7pm - Sunday March 13, 2 pm

Are you overwhelmed with all of those photos waiting to be sorted and put into albums? Do you find that you are simply too busy to work on this hobby that means so much to you? Then come away to our scrapbooking retreat. This is a great opportunity to connect with other women, share creative ideas, and scrapbook without all of the distractions of home. We hope you'll join us for a relaxing weekend. We'll even do the cooking for you!

The Program Director is Katie Carper

A Scrapbook Consultant will be available. Scrapbooks supplies will be available to purchase.

Cost: \$115



2011 Father/Son Retreat

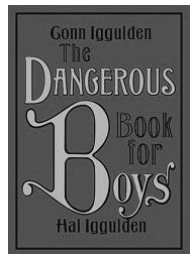
Friday April 29, 7pm - Sunday May 1, 2 pm

For boys in grades 3 - 8 with their dad. Another **DANGEROUS RETREAT for Boys and Men**. This is our fourth year for the dangerous retreat. This year will be more dangerous and exciting than before! From the moment you arrive, we will celebrate boyhood and manhood by exploring the adventurous side of life and getting back to the basics of how God made us **BOYS AND MEN**. Participate in some Dangerous activities. Investigate some Dangerous stories. Enjoy some plain old fun - indoors and out!

The Program Director is Jesse Skaggs.

Special Guest Storyteller: Chill Kuhn.

Cost: \$90 - Dad; \$85 - Son



2011 Mother/Daughter Retreat

Friday May 20, 7pm - Sunday May 22, 2 pm

For girls in grades 6-12 with their mom. **LIVING WATERS: The Power to Change!** A weekend of refreshment and adventure for mothers and their daughters grades 6-12. Come for a weekend that will allow you to focus on God's Holy Breath in our lives. Spend some time together playing, snacking, crafting, resting, praying, eating, hiking, worship deep. Spend some time together strengthening your relationship as mothers and daughters and your relationship with God.

The Program Director is Carrie Patterson.

Cost: \$90 - Mom; \$85 - Daughter



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and LinkedIn

LinkedIn

Two New Program Elements

By Glendon Carper

The Adventure Program here at Pocono Plateau has seen a few changes over the past year. We have adopted the leap of faith silhouette as our logo for the Adventure Program. This spring we began offering water bottles in the camp store displaying this logo. Next spring we hope to have a new t-shirt for the Adventure Program. Earlier this year we changed the name of our “Low Ropes” activity to “Team Building Experience”. The term “low ropes” was confusing and misleading to many groups and individuals. Many asked, “Where are the ropes” or “when are we going into the woods”. Our course consists of many different elements and only a few actually have any ropes involved. Taking the advice of Dennis Mellott (he helped to rebuild the course when it was moved from the island) we decided to change the name to better describe the activity. We are offering the same program as before, but hopefully eliminating some of the preconceived expectations of the groups.

Along with the name change we are also in the process of changing and rebuilding a few of the elements. With the help of the summer staff we were able to build the element “Bridge Out”. **Bridge Out** consists of three platforms: two large six foot platforms, with a three foot platform in the middle. The challenge is to get the group from one side to the other using two boards. This element allows groups to work on communication, leadership, and trust. **Raging River** is in the process of being built. It consists of several large rocks and participants have to traverse the area using several 4x6 planks. It encourages the group to problem solve to figure out the path and challenges them to communicate with the entire group as they are separated by space as they make their way across the “river”. If you are looking for a way to increase communication, cooperation, and trust with your group, please contact us to discuss an experience for your group.

A special thanks to all of you who have donated towards the needs of the Adventure Program. This year we replaced a significant amount of equipment and were able to use donations to cover the costs of many of these items.

A “SPECIAL THANKS” to Katie and Glendon Carper who ran a marathon for the Pocono Plateau Vehicle Fund. They raised over \$1600.00 in sponsorships through this event.



New Wood Shed For the Wood-burner at Moore

A new wood storage shed has been built in-place in the woods adjacent to Moore Lodge. The shed will hold the wood that volunteers cut and split during the year. This wood shed will supply the wood-burner that is installed to heat the lodging and water of Moore Lodge.

A new burner is currently being installed to heat Fellowship Hall. We are anticipating some pretty extensive savings from the use of this alternative energy source. The burners will be in use year round.

Wish List:

- New or used (good condition) vehicles
- 10 Replacement brooms for Broom Ball—\$5.00 each
- 12 Frisbees for Frisbee Golf—\$5.00 each
- 10 Carabineers for Adventure Program—\$17.00 each
- 6 Belay Devices—\$18.00 each
- 3 Zorbers—\$25.00 each
- 2 GPS units—\$90.00 each
- New Chainsaw Stihl 290—\$525.00
- Hammer-drill—\$250.00
- New motor for log-splitter—\$600.00

If you are interested in donating any of these items or funds toward the purchase of these items, please contact the Pocono Plateau Camp Office at: 570.676.3665.



"Experiencing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through recreation, challenge, and reflection."

AN OPEN LETTER

October 22, 2010

Dear Friends of the Plateau!

The recent economic state of our country has created financial hardship everywhere, including at Pocono Plateau. The loss of jobs and instability of our financial system has caused many people to cut back on spending. As a result families chose not to send their children to summer camp and churches have not scheduled retreats. The impact to the camp's financial situation has been devastating.

This year Pocono Plateau has lost over \$78,000 from retreat and summer camp revenue. The camp staff has always been frugal when it comes to spending money, yet they made drastic cuts to the budget to reduce expenses to the bare necessities. However, the amount of lost revenue that we've experienced cannot be offset by merely cutting expenses.

Pocono Plateau is facing a financial crisis! Currently, we are projecting that the camp will have a \$62,000 revenue shortfall at the end of the year. (If winter temperatures come earlier than expected, the deficit could be higher due to the cost of heating fuel.)

We are extremely appreciative of past donations and those who have elected to partner with the camp in regular financial support. Each year Pocono Plateau relies on donations and financial gifts to meet our expenses. This year we will be unable to pay our bills without the donations from individuals like you willing to support the ministry of Pocono Plateau.

As an important member of the 'Plateau Family', I ask that you would prayerfully consider supporting in a generous fashion the life-changing ministry of Pocono Plateau. If you've never given to the camp before, would you please consider donating this year? When you contribute to the camp financially you are providing opportunities for children and youth to make decisions to live for Jesus, develop leadership skills, encounter genuine Christian community, and experience extended time for spiritual reflection.

This year we need your financial assistance more than ever! Thank you for your faithful support.

Together in Ministry,

Rev. Ronald L. Schane
Director